

your to have their painting in accordance with the architectural design, than attempt to deviate from it, and may the effect which was intended to be produced; and that they should not be led away by absurd manias which are pushed forward and called fashionable; for what can be more ridiculous than to introduce those harlequin-looking Moorish borders in our beautiful Grecian and Italian buildings, when there are within the reach of all abundance of Grecian and Italian ornaments? It is a blessing to society that our architects partly check such absurdities."

REMUNERATION OF ARCHITECTURAL DRAUGHTSMEN.

It is a fact not generally known, to the public, and scarcely to be credited, that architectural drawing clerks are the worst paid class of men of the whole body of clerks. Considering the talent and education expected of them, they ought to be the best paid, for an architectural draughtsman must be acquainted with practical geometry, mensuration, an extensive knowledge of arithmetic, every thing relating to building in its various branches, a neat and expeditious draughtsman, well read in the old authors on the art, and, in fact, he is supposed to know as much as his employer except in the matter of taste. His education must be liberal of course, as the various branches I have enumerated will testify; and his personal appearance must be gentlemanly; and yet he is so inadequately paid, that merchants' clerks, of whom no particular talent is required beyond arithmetic, are much better paid than he is.

It may be asked, Why is this so? Why are they not better paid? Probably the system of taking pupils tends much to the bad pay of drawing clerks. Some architects of large practice take as many as six pupils, and only employ one or two paid clerks; the consequence of which is, the pupils when out of their articles are obliged to seek situations in other offices; they find pupils in every office, so that they are obliged to receive low salaries or be idle. Architects will not give high salaries while they can fill their offices with pupils who pay large premiums; they find it to their interest to have one or two paid clerks, for the pupils, know scarcely any thing beyond drawing, or it is probable that the class of draughtsmen would soon become extinct. There is something exceedingly galling in this, for a young modest fellow when he is informed of the amount of salary he is to receive, erroneously supposes that his services are not worth more, and is content to accept the terms in hopes that brighter days may succeed; but, alas! his hopes have no foundation save in his own mind. His employer, seeing him seemingly content with his situation and salary, thinks that he is satisfied, and is glad that he can get such a clever fellow for such a small salary; but should this young fellow at last, getting more confidence as he gets rubbed by the world, summon up his courage to the "sticking point," and, as conscious ability and talent swells within his breast, politely request to have his salary raised, or be allowed to resign his situation, his employer then, as it were, forced to acknowledge his abilities by the fear of losing them, agrees to augment his salary, stating, at the same time, that "he had observed for some time his attention to business, and had intended to have raised it had he not spoken first;" by which species of humbug the poor clerk is induced to believe that his employer was not so bad as he believed him to be, and, like another Tom Pinch, would quarrel with his dearest friend for saying aught against him.

I believe draughtsmen who serve with the great men of the profession are the most unlucky of the class; one certain advantage they have, which is, that being constantly associated with the great men, they to a certain extent imbibe some of their genius, and certainly gain a great deal in the matter of taste, which it is probable they might not if they were in an office of less importance; but this very advantage is a great disadvantage in a pecuniary point of view; the great men know the advantage which their draughtsmen have in being associated with them, and therefore give them low salaries, comforting themselves with the assurance that if they do not pay in the coin of the realm, they do in that of the brain, which they (not being in any pecuniary strait,

nor perhaps never having been in a "tin dilemma") consider to be the more valuable coin of the two. In this case, the poor clerk submits not to necessity, but to this consideration, that the credit attached to him by having been with such and such a great man for so many years will get him a good situation in any other office, at a good salary; this he has a right to expect, but even in this he is too often disappointed.

I am sorry to be able to record it, that builders have much more respect for the ability of their draughtsmen than architects, who would be supposed to appreciate and reward it more; but so it is, even mediocre talent is much better paid by builders than by architects.

It may perhaps be running away from the subject, but I may be excused when I say that to "give every devil his due," I think that the builder is a much more enterprising and in a great many instances a more liberal-minded man than the architect. To whom, I may ask, are we indebted for all the improvements of any magnitude or note, either in London or the provincial towns? Nobody can deny that it is the builders to whom we are indebted for all the improvements at the West End; the very extensive buildings at Eaton and Lowndes squares, Wilton and Burton crescents, the Regent's Park, Kent-terrace, Oxford and Cambridge squares, Hyde Park Gardens, and, in fact, all of London that has been built within this last twenty years has been entirely through the enterprise of builders; they are a speculative race of men. I am sorry, though, that so few of them make their way in the world; they do an extensive deal of good to others and harm to themselves, but whoever heard of an architect failing by his profession? oh, no, they play a safer game, and not at all times a very honourable one, as many a builder can testify to his cost; but to return from whence I left off.

That architectural draughtsmen have themselves to blame in a great measure for the inadequacy of their remuneration is very evident. I hate combinations, and I therefore would not advise my brother draughtsmen to enter into them, because I conceive that the dignity of the profession would be much lowered by so doing. A much better way which we have of enforcing our pecuniary claims is by making ourselves thoroughly acquainted with our profession, extensively useful to our employers, and to make them feel that it would be an immense sacrifice to do without us, and the result is easily foreseen.

"Our doubts are traitors,
And make us lose the good we oft might win
By fearing to attempt."—SHAKESPEARE.

J. L. C.

Legislation.

HOUSE OF COMMONS, Wednesday, August 16.

—*Payne's Wood Patent.*—Mr. BARCLAY rose to put a question to the noble lord at the head of the Woods and Forests department concerning a subject which to his constituents and the shipping interest generally, as well as to those engaged in domestic building, was of considerable importance—he alluded to the patent process of Mr. Payne for preserving timber from dry rot, and the ravages of insects. He understood that the properties of the patent to this extent had been pretty fully tested, and more than all by the department over which his lordship presides, and that it had been satisfactorily shown that it had the property of rendering wood prepared by it unflammable, or at any rate of depriving it of a large degree of combustibility. For his own part, he (the hon. member for Sunderland) had no interest in the matter whatever; but anxious on account of his constituents, and, as he had said, on account of the general public, he wished to know from the noble lord whether any and what report had been agreed upon, in order that it might go forth to the country upon satisfactory grounds.—Lord LINCOLN said he felt most happy to give the honourable member the fullest information he possessed on the subject. The matter had been brought before him in his official capacity, and he had thought it right to take considerable pains to be well informed on so important an invention. He had paid a visit to the premises and inspected the very ingenious machinery and process of Mr. Payne, but not liking to trust his own judgment in a matter where great professional skill was essential, he had directed Mr. Phillips, Professor of Economic Geology, to examine into the invention and report upon it. That report the noble lord said was highly favourable; and, since then he

had directed the erection of a structure in his department in which the process had been applied to all the timbers, and under the inspection of the Woods and Forests surveyors. He had no doubt himself of the great value of the invention, and believed that experience would confirm his present favourable opinion, but time would be necessary to test it. A comparison of the merits of Mr. Payne's, Mr. Kyan's, Sir William Barnett's, and another process, the name of the inventor of which he could not recollect, had been instituted, we understood the noble lord to say, in Regent-street or Regent's-park. He should be happy to lay before the hon. member for Sunderland the report of Mr. Phillips.—Mr. BARCLAY thanked the noble lord for his satisfactory statement, and moved that the report be laid upon the table of the House, which was agreed to.

ASSESSED TAXES CASES.

Determined by the Judges on Appeal.

(No. 1479).—Windows—Dwelling-house—Due Assessment in 1834-5—Who to prove.

It is incumbent on an appellant to show that he was duly assessed for the year ending 5th of April, 1835, when he seeks to be relieved from an increased charge for the windows in his dwelling-house.

At a meeting of the commissioners of assessed taxes acting in and for the said division and county, held at the court house, Osborn-street, Whitechapel, on the 23rd day of December, 1840 (48 Geo. 3, c. 55, sch. (A.); 4 & 5 Will. 4, c. 45, s. 2).—*Gregorio Grago*, of Parson-street, St. George, Middlesex, toy-maker, appealed against an increased charge for the windows in his dwelling-house, being from eight to eleven. It appeared on the statement of the appellant, that in front of the house (exclusive of his shop window) there are four glazed windows, and four behind, and one which he has opened in a washhouse in the yard since 1833, which was before that time lighted by an aperture unglazed; there is besides under the stall-board of his shop in the front an opening into his cellar admitting light therein, which is supported by iron bars and not glazed, and there is also a hole in the wall of the back cellar, admitting light therein, of the dimensions of eighteen inches by fourteen, likewise unglazed.

The commissioners being of opinion, that unless the contrary is made to appear by the surveyor to the crown on evidence to be adduced by him, it is to be assumed, that parties were duly assessed to the window duties for the year ending the 5th day of April, 1835, and that the assessment of the assessors upon oath should be held to be conclusive, unless the contrary appear, *relieved the appellant*; but the surveyor being dissatisfied with their decision, demanded a case, which we have stated and signed for the opinion of some or one of her Majesty's judges, or barons of the Exchequer.

GEORGE OFFER,
EDWARD JONES.

16th May, 1841.—We are of opinion that the determination of the Commissioners is wrong.

J. PATTERSON. T. COLTMAN. W. WIGHTMAN.
—Justice of the Peace.

COLOGNE CATHEDRAL.—This famous cathedral is a fine building, but not half finished. I speak especially of the interior. Your first impression on entering it is of its exquisite lightness. The very materials seem to have lost their materialism in the hands of the architect, in conformity with the design of a great genius spiritualised by its fervent homage to the Divine Spirit. In looking upward along the tall, slender columns which seem to have sprung spontaneously from the earth like so many reeds, and afterwards to have been petrified—for only nature herself seemed capable of combining so much lightness with durability—I almost felt, as the architect must have done, that I had cast off the burden of the flesh, and had a tendency to mount skywards. In this particular it presented a remarkable contrast to the feelings excited by any other Gothic edifice with which I am acquainted. In Westminster Abbey, for instance, whose more solid architecture is chiefly visible by a "dim religious light," I was almost overcome with an awe amounting to gloom; whereas at Cologne, the state of my mind rose somewhat above serenity. lofty, aspiring, cheerful, the light of heaven more abundantly admitted than excluded, and streaming through painted panes, with all the varied colours of the first promise; the distant roof seemed to re-echo with any other strains than those of that awful hymn the "Dies Irae." In opposition to the Temple of Religious Fear, I should call it the Temple of Pious Hope.—*Up the Rhine.*

In the intended new dock at Liverpool, called the Albert Dock, the estimated quantity of cast iron is no less than 7,000 tons.